



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SOLAR FEE CREDIT INCENTIVE



Background Information

The purpose of this incentive is to advance the use of solar energy for the benefit of city residents and all who share in our global environment. These incentives will enable builders and average citizens to further benefit from federal and state tax incentives and show Tucson as a leader in the solar energy arena and be recognized as a “Solar Friendly” community.

What Is The Solar Fee Credit Incentive?

The Solar Fee Credit Incentive will credit (or waive) a portion or all permit fees on a new building or when retrofitting existing buildings with a qualifying solar energy system.

What Is A Qualifying Solar Energy System?

A Qualifying Solar Energy System shall be the installation of any of the following:

- Solar Electric (Photovoltaic) System
- Solar Domestic Hot Water System
- Space Heating System
- Solar Air Conditioning System

In addition, such a system must displace a Minimum of 1,500 kilowatt hours per year.

How Does The Incentive Work?

The program will credit the amount paid by an applicant for a building permit up to a maximum of \$1,000 for the installation of a qualifying solar energy system or the actual amount of the permit fee, whichever is less. Impact Fee's and Plan Check Fee's will remain the same.

Building credits under this program shall not exceed 10% or \$10,000 for any single project of the credit amount provided under this program. A project shall be defined as lots in subdivisions or Planned Area Developments or buildings or shell buildings under ownership by one entity at the time of application for a permit that contains a solar energy system. A condominium project shall be considered under single ownership.

EXAMPLES OF NEW BUILDING OR RESIDENCE

Type of Activity	Permit Fee	Max. Credit Allowed	Fees Waived	Fees Due
Commercial Shell Building – 14340 sq. ft.	\$10,586.20	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$9,586.20*
12 Unit Apartment – 5469 sq. ft. (single permit)	\$8,754.27	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,754.27*
12 Unit Apartment – 5469 sq. ft. (three permits)	\$8,754.27	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,754.27*
Duplex – 3026 sq. ft.	\$2,756.82	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,756.82*
Single Family Home – 1718 sq. ft.	\$1796.80	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$796.80*
20 Lot Subdivision – 1718 sq. ft.	\$35,936.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$25,936.00*

EXAMPLES OF RETROFITTED BUILDING OR RESIDENCE

Type of Activity	Permit Fee	Max. Credit Allowed	Fees Waived	Fees Due
Photovoltaic 1.5 KW System	\$90.00	\$1,000.00	\$90.00	\$0.00*
Solar Water Heater System	\$180.00	\$1,000.00	\$180.00	\$0.00*

- Plan Check Fee's and/or Impact Fee's will still apply and are not calculated as part of the waiver.

What Happens If I Decide Not To Install The Solar System After I Receive My Incentive?

The applicant shall refund the city if the applicant fails to install the system. The system shall be considered not installed if at the time of intermediate inspections it is not roughed in or at final inspections it is not operational.

How Long Will This Incentive Be Available?

The Solar Fee Credit Incentive will be reviewed by December 31, 2008 to recommend any changes the program or when all available credits have been exhausted whichever occurs first.

What Are Credits?

Credits are the dollar amount made available by the City of Tucson for this Incentive. The City of Tucson has made available \$100,000 for new buildings and \$100,000 for existing buildings.

I'm Not Using A Solar Energy System, Will I Be Paying Higher Permit Fee's To Offset The Cost Of This Program?

No, The Solar Fee Credit program will not cause those not qualified for the credit to pay increased fees. The City of Tucson has allotted the credits stated above for this program, and will not negatively affect any city department.

If you have any questions about the Solar Fee Credit Incentive, please call us at (520) 791-5550, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.